



## South Dakota Department of the Military South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs



# MAY IS NATIONAL MILITARY APPRECIATION MONTH

At the encouragement of the South Dakota Department of the Military, Gov. Dennis Daugaard has proclaimed May as "National Military Appreciation Month," a time for all to honor, remember, recognize and appreciate those who have served in the past and those now serving, as well as their families.

National Military Appreciation Month includes: Loyalty Day on May 5, Victory in Europe Day on May 8, Military Spouse Appreciation Day on May 9, Armed Forces Day on May 17 and Memorial Day on May 26.

These days provide an opportunity to learn more about military members and the families who have given of themselves to support and defend the principles we hold dear.

"Let us dedicate the month of May to honor all of our military men and women and their families and educate the youth of our nation on the historical impact the U.S. military has had for our country," said Adjutant General Timothy Reisch, Secretary of the South Dakota Department of the Military. "This nation's veterans and their families have contributed so much to earn and preserve the freedoms we all enjoy."



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Heroes Among Us—showcasing 125 South Dakota veterans.



## HEROES AMONG US

James Olverson, better known as Jim, was born and raised in a small farming community near Clark. Jim grew up helping his dad on the farm, but always had a passion for cars! He grew up with his younger brother Bob and sister Jean. His parents were Erlus and Melba Olverson.

After High School Jim went to Springfield to pursue an education in mechanics. A couple years into college, he got drafted into the Vietnam War. He was 20 years old.

After training in Ft. Bliss, he served in Vietnam for a year in the U.S. Army. He was stationed at Da Nang with the 144 Artillery Unit. He drove a tank, because most of his crew were 'city boys' and they didn't know much about driving. He had a lot of practice driving on the farm. He often drove the tanks through the muddy and narrow bridges of Nam. He recalls one instance when one of the guys fell off the tank and almost drowned in the mud. They couldn't see him for a while, but he ended up surfacing and recovered.

During his time spent overseas, he wrote many letters to his parents and siblings. In some of the letters he mentions the Vietnam people... "They don't like it when I take their picture; they say I am stealing their soul."



"The kids try to sell us pop and other things through the fence for 50 cents...one of our soldiers drank the whiskey they were selling and died; it was laced with poison." He also mentioned the rats were huge and they slept under netting to keep the rats off.

An enjoyable experience he had was his R & R time on Taipei. He said the country was very beautiful and peaceful.

After his time spent overseas, Jim went back to college and finished his degree in mechanics and began teaching mechanics classes in Mitchell. In 1979 he opened his own mechanic shop in Clark, called Olverson Transmission. His son, Olaf, also worked with him at the shop doing body work. He recently closed the shop down and now has a

small shop in Watertown, where he does some outside work, but mostly restores classic cars.

Jim is past retirement age, but refuses to retire. His motto is "Busy hands are happy hands," so he will continue to stay busy for as long as he can. Jim has four grown children and many grandchildren and even great grandchildren.

Thank you Jim, for your service to this great country!"





## HEROES AMONG US

On December 7, 1941, Reinholdt (Reiny) Dutt and friend Vernon Markovetz were riding around on the streets of Gettysburg and stopped in at the local gas station. It was then that they heard that the Japanese had bombed Pearl Harbor. "It was quite a shock," said Dutt. "I don't think we even knew where Pearl Harbor was at that time."

Dutt graduated in the spring of 1943 and was drafted in July of 1944, and was mustered into the service at Ft. Snelling, MN in September 1944. Dutt completed his basic training at Camp Hood (now known as Fort Hood). He shipped out to the Pacific Theatre in February 1945 aboard the USS Sea Partridge and landed in Hawaii in March 1945.

Dutt noted that on board ship bound for Saipan, it came over the loudspeaker that President Roosevelt had died. The ship had just crossed the International Date Line. "That was quite a blow to lose your president."

Dutt landed in Okinawa on May 6 and was assigned to the 307th Regiment Company D of the 77th Division. He was a gunner assigned to a heavy weapons platoon. Dutt served in Cebu Island in the Philippines and the Japanese Island of Hokkaido. Dutt separated from the United States Army in 1946.

There were four boys in Dutt's family, three of the four served in World War II and one later. All survived.

After the war, Dutt worked for the United States Postal Service, worked in a meat market, did carpentry work and farmed. Dutt farmed in the Gettysburg area until 1997 when he retired to enjoy some of his hobbies.

Thank you Reinholdt for your service to this great country!



## SD AIR GUARD CONDUCTS LARGE FORCE EMPLOYMENT, SORTIE SURGE

The South Dakota Air National Guard's 114th Fighter Wing took full advantage of the break in cold weather to conduct both a large force employment and sortie surge exercise, April 11-12.

The large force employment, or LFE, requires exercise participants to apply skills in planning and conducting large-scale employment of air assets while either attacking or defending an objective, employing effective command and control and also accomplishing aerial refueling.

Not only were the two days a great benefit for the pilots of the unit, the maintenance and support personnel benefited as well.

As the Air Force shifts its focus in terms of inspections, airmen of the 114th Fighter Wing can expect more short-notice reviews and a constant focus on readiness under the new Unit Effectiveness Inspection program, which these exercises were an introduction to. The program shifts the responsibility for oversight of inspections to wing commanders and lessens the reliance on outside inspectors visiting the base. The airmen will no longer have to cram in advance of an inspection team arriving; instead, they will constantly be under the watchful eye of their commanders. Now, inspector general teams will evaluate wings with "capstone" visits every two years, according to the Air Force. The 114th Fighter Wing's capstone visit will be this June and the unit is already underway as with the LFE and sortie surge exercises this month.



Along with the 114th Fighter Wing Inspection Team, seven other "visiting" inspectors were on base to assist the maintenance personnel evaluate their processes and procedures to ensure things are being done by the book, or in this case, by the technical order. Part of the sortie surge exercise included a concurrent servicing operation. The flight line was busy with members from several areas of maintenance to include crew chiefs, weapon loaders and petroleum, oils and lubricants flight members. Their goal was to work closely together to recover, reload and refuel the F-16 aircraft during the CSO portion of the sortie surge. Efficiency and safety are stressed throughout the exercise. The unit completed 32 successful sortie generations, which is more than twice of what a normal day would include. The CSO is an annual requirement the unit has to test, and inspectors were on hand to evaluate its completion.

The wing commander's inspectors will report to the inspector general at the major command. Part of the inspection is virtual, with commanders using a database called the "management internal control tool set" to keep track of compliance.

## 82ND CST CONDUCTS HAZARDOUS RESPONSE EXERCISE AT CAMP RAPID



Members of the South Dakota National Guard's 82nd Civil Support Team conducted a training exercise, April 22, 2014, at Camp Rapid.

This exercise was designed to test the unit's ability to respond to a chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear incident.

The exercise, facilitated by the U.S. Army North's Civil Support Training Activity, is part of the 82nd CST's evaluation conducted every 18-months to test how well the team responds to a hazardous incident.



**!!SAVE THE DATE!!**

**South Dakota Coalition for Military Families  
2nd Annual Symposium!**

*The SDCMF focuses on connecting organizations with each other for increased awareness, education, and mutual support of Service members, Veterans, and their Families. We are a state-wide collaborative partnership meant to engage all branches and components of the armed forces and their communities.*

The Symposium will include an exhibitor expo and educational tracks that address key issues important to our Veteran and Military community. Our Veterans, Service Members and their Families come in contact with Post Secondary High Educators, School Counselors, Health Care Providers, First Responders, Social Workers, Therapists, Counselors, Human Resources, Spiritual advisors and many others on a daily basis.

***If you come in contact with Veterans, Service Members and their Families, this Symposium is for you!***

***More information coming soon!***

**September 10-11, 2014**

**Location:  
Washington Pavilion  
Sioux Falls, SD**

**[sdcmf.org](http://sdcmf.org)**

***Early Bird Registration ~ \$120  
After July 25, 2014 ~ \$150***



## PARKSTON UNIT COMPETING FOR NATIONAL MAINTENANCE AWARD

Parkston's Forward Support Company, 153rd Engineer Battalion, is competing for the 2013-2014 Army Award for Maintenance Excellence and underwent an inspection this month to validate the unit as having one of the best maintenance programs in the National Guard.

Two inspectors from the National Guard Bureau completed an on-site evaluation, April 3, of the South Dakota Army National Guard unit's maintenance program; the results of which will be assessed against a dozen other National Guard units from across the nation.

The Army Award for Maintenance Excellence, or AAME, was established in 1982 by the Department of the Army to annually recognize units for demonstrated excellence in the areas of maintenance operations. The primary objectives of the award program are to assess the maintenance component of unit readiness, improve efficiency, recognize outstanding unit maintenance accomplishments and improve field maintenance readiness.

The FSC qualified as a semifinalist for the national award by being selected as the NGB Region VI runner-up during the first stage of the competition.

During the first stage, the unit prepared documentation that summarized the maintenance activities of the unit and highlighted all of its accomplishments and praiseworthy activities over the last fiscal year. The documentation was then submitted as a nomination packet to Headquarters, Department of the Army, which then selects units for an onsite evaluation.

During the second stage, an onsite evaluation is completed. The NGB evaluation team conducted an in-depth inspection of all maintenance-related activities conducted by the unit. Some of the areas covered during this month's inspection included dispatching procedures, vehicle and equipment services, weapons maintenance, hazardous-materials handling and motor pool operations.

The onsite inspection is the final stage of the inspection process, which accounts for 70 percent of their final score. Results of the 2013-2014 AAME competition will be released in May.

## EASTER BUNNY VISITS STATE VETERANS HOME

A glorious spring day made for a good turnout at the annual Hot Springs Area Chamber of Commerce Easter Egg Hunt, on the front lawn of the Michael J. Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home on Saturday morning.

After the mad rush to find the hidden treasures, participants were also treated to Easter-egg themed games by the Hot Springs Chapter of the Legion Riders.



# Upcoming Events

## 2014

May 2-4—DAV State Convention—Ramkota Hotel—Aberdeen  
May 2-4—Vietnam Era Reunion—Deadwood Gulch—Deadwood  
May 6—SDDVA Mini Conference—Sturgis - Veterans Club, 868 Main Street—10:00 am (MT)  
May 7—SDDVA Mini Conference—Pierre - American Legion, 520 S. Pierre Street—10:00 am (CT)  
May 8—SDDVA Mini Conference—Brookings - City/County Building, 520 3<sup>rd</sup> Street—10:00 am (CT)  
Jun 5-8—VFW State Convention—Custer  
Jun. 14—SD Marine Corps League State Convention—Pierre Post 8 Legion Cabin—10:30 am  
Jun. 19-22—American Legion State Convention—Ramkota Hotel—Pierre  
Jul. 7—BHNC Unaccompanied Veterans Memorial Service—BHNC—9:00 am  
Aug. 6—DOL Veterans Job Fair—Augustana College Elmen Center—10:00 am—2:00 pm  
Aug. 25-29—NACVSO Training Ramkota Hotel—Pierre  
Sept. 10-11—SDCMF 2nd Annual Symposium—Sioux Falls Washington Pavilion  
Oct. 6—BHNC Unaccompanied Veterans Memorial Service—BHNC—9:00 am

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